

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1 - 20 (Canceled)

21. (New) A device comprising:
a gripping element of an appliance door movable relative to the appliance door during a door movement of the appliance door, the gripping element adapting its movement to the movement of the hand of a user.
22. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the gripping element is movably mounted at least largely independently of a position of the appliance door.
23. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a stabilizing unit for stabilizing the gripping element in at least one position.
24. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit stabilizes the gripping element in at least three positions.
25. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit includes at least one locating unit.
26. (New) The device according to claim 25, wherein the locating unit includes at least one ribbed partial area.
27. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit includes a spring-loaded locating element.

28. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the stabilizing unit stabilizes the gripping element in a plurality of locating positions.
29. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the gripping element is mountable on the appliance door so that it can pivot about a pivoting axis.
30. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the pivoting axis runs at least substantially parallel to a pivoting axis of the appliance door.
31. (New) The device according to claim 23 and further comprising means for releasing the stabilizing unit in at least one position of the appliance door.
32. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising means for releasing a locating connection during a closing movement of the appliance door.
33. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a restoring means to automatically move the gripping element into a base position when the appliance door is closed.
34. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the gripping element comprises at least two independent degrees of freedom of movement.
35. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a sensor unit for sensing a movement characteristic of the gripping element.
36. (New) The device according to claim 35, wherein the sensor unit comprises switching means which can be switched by means of the gripping element.
37. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a sensor unit for sensing a user characteristic.

38. (New) The device according to claim 35 and further comprising a control unit provided for processing a signal of the sensor unit.
39. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a drive element for driving the movement of the gripping element.
40. (New) The device according to claim 21 and further comprising a damping element for damping a movement of the gripping element.